

THIS SPECIAL NOTICE IS A REQUEST FOR COMMENT ONLY. This is not a synopsis preceding the issuance of a solicitation. Rather, it is market research issued solely for information purposes- it does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or any other solicitation. This notice does not commit the U.S. Government to contract for any supply or service. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is not at this time seeking proposals. Responders are advised that the U.S. Government will not pay any cost incurred in response to this notice. All costs associated with responding to this notice will be solely at the interested parties' expense. Any information provided by industry to the Government as a result of this notice is voluntary. Not responding to this notice does not preclude participation in any future solicitation. It is recommended that interested parties monitor the Federal Business Opportunities website (<http://www.fedbizopps.gov>) and FedConnect (<https://www.fedconnect.net/>) for any information that may pertain to this notice. The information provided in this notice is subject to change and is not binding on the Government.

The purpose of this notice is to request comment on **potential evaluation criteria** for The Navajo Area Uranium Mines- Response, Assessment and Evaluation Services (RFI was posted under REF# SOL-R9-15-00014). To ensure the formal solicitation is executed in the most effective manner possible, we are posting these draft evaluation criteria in order to offer an opportunity for industry to provide feedback. Your questions and input will be used to further refine, improve, or clarify these evaluation factors.

**All Information and documentation posted under this notice are preliminary in nature and may be updated or amended prior to the release of the formal solicitation. The items listed below are only representative of those items we wish to receive comment on and are not a representation of all potential evaluation factors.**

### **NOTICE INFORMATION**

1. SOLICITATION NUMBER: SOL-R9-15-00014
2. TITLE: Navajo Area Uranium Mines- Response, Assessment and Evaluation Services
3. PRODUCT SERVICE CODE: B510- Environmental Assessment
4. NAICS CODE: 541620- Environmental Consulting Services
5. ANTICIPATED CONTRACT TYPE: Five (5) year Indefinite Delivery/ Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ)
6. ANTICIPATED MAGNITUDE: Between \$65,000,000.00 and \$100,000,000.00
7. ANTICIPATED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RELEASE: August 2016

8. DESCRIPTION OF WORK: For details on the type of services that may be required in a future solicitation, see attached DRAFT SOW that was posted with Request for Information (RFI) #SOL-R9-15-00014. Please do NOT submit comments or questions on the draft SOW, this is being attached for reference only.

9. **DRAFT EVALUATION CRITERIA**

(Please note that this is not a representation of all potential evaluation criteria and that these are not listed in any order or importance.)

Please provide comments on the following:

A. *Location in the General Geographical Area and Ability to Maintain Appropriate Office and Staff Presence*

*The Offeror shall demonstrate their ability to provide available, experienced and fully trained personnel at the skill levels, disciplines, and quantities required to perform the stated volume of work at sites near and around the work area. The work area is defined as the Navajo Nation and Grants Mining District. Offerors demonstrating a physical presence near the region (Navajo Nation and Grants Mining District) will receive a higher rating.*

B. *Employment and Training for Local Navajo Businesses and Individuals*

***Subfactor 1:*** *Offerors shall demonstrate their ability to successfully employ local Navajo owned businesses and/or individuals during the performance of this contract. Primes, Teaming Partners and Subcontracts shall be taken into consideration and recognized during the preparation and evaluation of this factor.*

*The Offeror shall prepare a concise and attainable employment plan that details the percentage and type of work to be performed by local Navajo entities, either through self-performance or through the use of subcontracts. The employment plans shall have specific goals identified both in percentage of total number of dollars going to local Navajo entities and individuals as well as the specific number of full time equivalent (FTE) jobs created.*

*The Offeror shall also describe the methods used to develop the employment plan and provide a detailed description on how the Offeror plans to maintain continual employment opportunities and outreach efforts throughout the life of the contract. This plan and the specific goals or metrics contained in the plan will be incorporated into any resultant contract and shall be binding.*

*The Government will evaluate the following:*

- a. ***The Percentage of Work to be Performed by Navajo Businesses and/or Individuals-***  
*The employment plan will be evaluated to determine the extent of work to be performed by Navajo businesses and/or individuals.*
- b. ***Feasibility-*** *The employment plan will be evaluated to determine how realistic and*

attainable it is.

- c. **Type of Employment Opportunities-** The employment plan will be evaluated to determine if there is a variety in the type of job opportunities available to Navajo businesses and/or individuals.
- d. **Outreach Efforts-** The employment plan will be evaluated on the thoroughness of outreach performed in order to develop the proposed employment plan and the likelihood of continual Navajo employment opportunities and sustained outreach efforts throughout the life of the contract.

**Please note that this is not intended to act as or replace the sub-contracting plan required for large businesses.**

**Subfactor 2:** The Offeror shall create a detailed plan to establish a local training program and/or utilize an existing program, such as those provided by local tribal colleges and other local universities. The offeror shall demonstrate how the training program(s) will provide capacity building for local Navajo businesses and/or individuals in labor, technical, scientific, contracting and other professional skillsets required for the successful performance of this contract and the continued implementation of the EPA's Abandoned Uranium Mines Program.

Offerors shall also provide a detailed outline of the proposed training program. At a minimum the outline shall include: the proposed curriculum, a description on how the Offeror plans to maintain continual training opportunities and outreach efforts, job opportunities that will be available after completion of the program, as well as a matrix that demonstrates how the success of the program will be measured. This program will be incorporated into any resultant contract.

The Government will evaluate the following:

- a) **Quality of Hands-on Training-** The training plan will be evaluated to determine if the quality and variety of hands-on opportunities proposed will garner real life experience that can be utilized and transferred throughout the continued implementation of the EPA's Abandoned Uranium Mines Program.
- b) **Feasibility of Success-** The training plan will be evaluated to determine how feasible success and sustainability is throughout the performance of the contract.
- c) **Likelihood of Future Job Placement Opportunities-** The training plan will be evaluated on the likelihood of participants having job opportunities available to them once they've successfully completed the training program.
- d) **Quality of proposed curriculum-** The training program will be evaluated to determine if the proposed curriculum will offer participants meaningful skills in a variety of areas that will assist in the capacity building of the Navajo Nation workforce.

END OF DRAFT EVALUATION CRITERIA

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## **SUBMITTAL INFORMATION:**

The Government will **not** review any capability statements, comments on the attached SOW or any other questions or comments that are **not** directly related to the attached DRAFT EVALUATION CRITERIA. Please ensure submissions are tailored to this announcement and the information requested below. Comments regarding the draft evaluation criteria are welcomed and should be specific. Candid feedback is requested in order to obtain the best ideas, greater efficiency and to incorporate industry best practices. However, vendors are advised any such feedback may be used in a solicitation(s). **Absolutely no proprietary information shall be submitted.** By submitting responses to this notice, you are authorizing the Government to use the information that you provide. There is no page limit to your responses, however, vendors are encouraged to provide concise responses or comments. Vendor responses to this announcement shall be submitted in PDF or in a Microsoft Word Format.

At a minimum that following should be addressed:

1. Cover Page. The cover page shall include the following information:
  - a. Respondent Name
  - b. Mailing Address
  - c. Point of Contact (POC)
    - i. POC Title
    - ii. POC Phone #
  - d. DUNS
  - e. Type of Business (Small, Large, 8(a), HubZone, Women Owned Small Business, Navajo Owned, Tribally Owned, etc.) Please list all that apply.
2. After reviewing the draft evaluation criteria, what input and/or recommendations have you identified that can contribute to the effectiveness of this solicitation:
  - a. Points for clarification
  - b. Pros and cons of using these as evaluation factors
  - c. What modifications should be considered to make them more effective and/or attainable
  - d. Any other comments you think may be helpful or relevant for consideration

## **FORMAT OF RESPONSES:**

Interested parties must be registered in FedConnect (<https://www.fedconnect.net/>) and are highly encouraged to register in the System for Award Management (SAM) (<https://www.sam.gov/>). All responses to this notice must be submitted electronically to the Contracting Officer via FedConnect. Facsimile responses are NOT accepted. The response can be submitted to the Contracting Officer, Autumn Roe, at e-mail address [roe.autumn@epa.gov](mailto:roe.autumn@epa.gov), **only if technical difficulties are experienced with FedConnect.**

**DUE DATE:**

We would appreciate all responses, questions or comments for this notice at your **earliest convenience** but not later than **June 24, 2016 at 3:00 P.M.**, Pacific Standard Time. Responses received after the due date may not be considered.

No telephone calls will be accepted requesting a bid package or solicitation. There is no bid package or solicitation. In order to protect the procurement integrity of any future procurement, if any, that may arise from this announcement, information regarding a technical point of contact will not be given. Please refer all questions/comments to the Contracting Officer, Ms. Autumn Roe. FedConnect is the preferred method of correspondence. However, if you are experiencing technical difficulties with the site, please submit questions to: [roe.autumn@epa.gov](mailto:roe.autumn@epa.gov). If you submit questions via email, please put "Questions for NOTICE SOL-R9-16-00002-" in the subject line. FedConnect will be the sole repository for all information related to this RFI. No questions will be addressed via oral communication.